



SPECIMEN COLLECTION FOR POTENTIAL CASES OF SARS

CONTACT STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT BEFORE COLLECTING SPECIMENS FOR SARS TESTING

I. LABELING AND DOCUMENTATION

1. Specimen labeling: Each specimen should be labeled with the patient ID number and the date collected.
2. Accompanying documentation: The package should include a **completed specimen submission form** available at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/pdf/specimensubmissionform-sars.pdf or a linelist for all specimens including patient name and CDC SARS ID number, samples collected, date collected, clinical contact name and phone number, and submitter contact name and phone number

II. UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT

- A. Nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate : Collect 1-2 ml into sterile vial.
- B. Nasopharyngeal/oropharyngeal swabs: Collect one NP and one OP swabs; use Dacron swabs with a non-wooden shaft. Place one NP swab and one OP swab into the same sterile vial containing 2 ml of viral transport media.

III. LOWER RESPIRATORY TRACT

Bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL), tracheal aspirate, or pleural tap: Half of specimen centrifuged with cell pellet fixed in formalin. Remaining unspun specimen collected into sterile vials. Seal tightly using parafilm. If the patient is intubated and it is clinically indicated, consider a transbronchial, fine needle or open lung biopsy. For domestic transportation, store and ship with cold packs to keep samples at 4°C.

IV. BLOOD COMPONENTS

- A. Serum: Collect 5-10 ml of whole blood in serum separator tube. Allow blood to clot, centrifuge and aliquot resulting sera. Seal tightly using parafilm. If serum has already been frozen, ship on dry ice. If unfrozen, ship with cold packs to keep samples at 4°C.
- B. Whole blood: Collect 5-10 ml of whole blood in an EDTA (purple-top) tube. Seal tightly using parafilm. For domestic transportation, ship with cold packs to keep samples at 4°C.

V. TISSUE

- A. Fixed tissue: Formalin fixed or paraffin embedded tissue from all major organs (e.g. lung, trachea, heart, spleen, liver, brain, kidney, adrenals). Store and ship at room temperature. ***DO NOT FREEZE FIXED TISSUES***
- B. Frozen tissue: Fresh frozen tissues from lung and upper airway (e.g. trachea, bronchus). Specimens should be collected aseptically via biopsy or at autopsy performed as soon as possible after death. Place each specimen in separate sterile containers containing small amounts of viral transport media or saline. Store and ship on dry ice.

VI. STOOL

Stool (10-50 cc) should be placed in a stool cup or urine container, securely capped, sealed with parafilm and bagged. For domestic transportation, ship with cold packs to keep samples at 4°C.

VII. SHIPPING

1. For US domestic transportation, store and ship all non-tissue specimens with cold packs to keep samples at 4°C. Frozen tissues should be sent on dry ice.
2. For international transportation, store and ship all non-tissue specimens on dry ice. Fixed tissues should **not** be frozen.
3. Package according to IATA Regulations as described in the Consignment of Diagnostic Specimens 2003 link that can be found at <http://www.iata.org/dangerousgoods/index>.
4. For domestic U.S. shipments use Delta DASH for same day delivery (1-800-638-7333) or FedEx for next day delivery (1-800-463-3339). International shipments should be done using the best carrier available.
5. Label all packages: **“Diagnostic Specimens. UN 3373. Packed in compliance with IATA packing instructions 650”**.
6. Address the packages to:

STAT Lab Phone: (770)-488-7100
Bldg. 4, Rm B35, MS G-12
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd NE
Atlanta, GA 30333
